

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OECD PARIS 00640

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, OECD

SUBJECT: JANUARY 8 MEETING OF EIGHT INDUSTRIALIZED

CIEC PARTICIPANTS

1. SUMMARY: CANADIAN AMB MAC LEAN BEGAN JAN 8 MEETING OF EIGHT INDUSTRIALIZED CIEC PARTICIPANTS WITH AN ACCOUNT OF MEETING HE HAD THE PREVIOUS EVENING WITH PEREZ-GUERRERO.

REPORT OF THAT MEETING FOLLOWS BELOW. OTHER ASPECTS OF G-8 MEETING WILL BE REPORTED BY SEPTTEL. END SUMMARY.

2. MAC LEAN SAID P-G NOTED AT OUTSET THAT G-19 ATTACHES CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO JAN 26 MEETING OF CO-CHAIRMEN.

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NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID P-G CONVEYED GENERAL IMPRESSION

THAT G-19 INTENDS TO ATTACK PROBLEMS IN BUSINESS-LIKE WAY, TO AVOID DRAMATICS AND DISRUPTIVE TACTICS IN JAN 26 MEETING AND TO SEEK TO LAUNCH COMMISSIONS AS SMOOTHLY AS POSSIBLE. FOLLOWING SUBJECTS WERE DISCUSSED:

3. CURRENT G-19 MEETING. P-G CONFIRMED THAT G-19 WAS CONCENTRATING ON EXPANSION AND ELABORATION OF LIST OF COMMISSION TOPICS PUT FORWARD BY SEVEN AT PREPCON II. END RESULT WOULD BE G-19 LIST WHICH WOULD SUPERCEDE THAT OF THE SEVEN. MAC LEAN SAID HE HAD IMPRESSION THAT NEW LIST WOULD PROBABLY CONTAIN BREAKDOWN OF TOPICS BY COMMISSIONS. P-G PROMISED TO GIVE CANADIANS COPY OF NEW LIST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. MAC LEAN SAID P-G MADE IT CLEAR THAT G-19 WOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO REVISE GUIDELINES FOR COMMISSIONS CONTAINED IN PREPCON II AND CIEC MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE AND IN FRENCH AIDE MEMOIRE, WHICH WOULD CONTINUE TO CONSTITUTE COMMISSION GUIDELINES. NEW LIST WAS NOT INTENDED AS DIRECTIVE TO COMMISSIONS -- WHICH WOULD DEVELOP THEIR OWN WORK PROGRAMS -- BUT ONLY AS EFFORT TO SPELL OUT IN MORE DETAIL QUESTIONS COMMISSIONS MIGHT WISH TO LOOK AT. P-G POINTED OUT THAT G-8 WAS ALSO FREE TO REVISE US LIST OR TO SUBMIT NEW LIST OF POSSIBLE COMMISSION TOPICS. P-G SAID G-19 ASSUMED IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENT ON LIST OF COMMISSION TOPICS AT JAN 26 MEETING, ALTHOUGH THAT WOULD BE DESIRABLE. HE HOPED, HOWEVER, THAT CO-CHAIRMEN WOULD TAKE NOTE OF G-19 LIST AND ANY OTHER NEW IDEAS AND AGREE TO PASS THEM ALONG TO COMMISSIONS WITH HOPE THAT THEY WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DECIDING WORK PROGRAMS.

5. MAC LEAN SAID P-G POINTED OUT THAT LACK OF AGREED LIST MIGHT IMPLY DUPLICATION IN TOPICS COVERED BY SEVERAL COMMISSIONS. HE AGREED WITH MAC LEAN, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO ATTEMPT TO ELIMINATE SUCH DUPLICATION, WHICH COULD LEAD TO DIFFICULT SUBSTANTIVE DEBATE. ACCORDING MAC LEAN, P-G VOICED FULL RECOGNITION THAT SUBSTANTIVE WORK SHOULD BE LEFT TO COMMISSIONS, WHICH WOULD BE MASTERS OF THEIR OWN WORK.

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6. P-G INDICATED THAT G-19 MEETING WOULD CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THIS WEEK AND POSSIBLY SPILL OVER INTO EARLY NEXT WEEK. HE SAID THERE WERE NO PLANS FOR FURTHER G-19 MEETINGS PRIOR TO JAN 26 EXCEPT POSSIBLY BRIEF MEETING ON THE PREVIOUS DAY.

7. TIMING AND DURATION OF COMMISSION MEETINGS. MAC LEAN

SAID HE REMINDED P-G OF FIRM G-8 POSITION FAVORING MEETINGS LASTING NO MORE THAN FIVE DAYS AND SPACED AT LEAST AT FOUR WEEK INTERVALS. P-G EMPHASIZED THAT AT LEAST FIRST COMMISSION MEETINGS SHOULD BE LONGER, LASTING AT LEAST TWO WEEKS, SO THAT PARTICIPANTS COULD GO BEYOND ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS TO ENGAGE SUBSTANCE AND HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER WELL. MAC LEAN SAID P-G LEFT STRONG IMPRESSION HE WANTS TO SEE MAJOR MOVEMENT IN FIRST HALF OF YEAR (PERHAPS, MAC LEAN SPECULATED, BECAUSE OF MAY UNCTAD MEETING) AND THAT HE WOULD WANT LENGTHY COMMISSION MEETINGS THROUGHOUT 1ST SIX MONTHS. P-G IMPLIED THAT G-19 MIGHT TRY TO WORK OUT GENERAL SCHEDULE FOR FIRST HALF, OR AT LEAST QUARTER, OF THE YEAR AT JAN 26 MEETING. MAC LEAN SUMMARIZED THAT THERE CONTINUE TO BE SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS ON THIS ISSUE WHICH WILL REQUIRE FURTHER DISCUSSION.

8. LENGTH OF JAN 26 MEETING. MAC LEAN SAID P-G AGREED THAT MEETING OF CO-CHAIRMAN SHOULD BE REASONABLY SHORT AND BUSINESS-LIKE AND THAT DELEGATIONS SHOULD BE AS SMALL AS POSSIBLE. MAC LEAN SAID HE SUGGESTED A ONE OR TWO DAY MEETING. THEY AGREED THAT IT SHOULD LAST NO MORE THAN THREE DAYS BUT MAC LEAN SAID P-G CLEARLY EXPECTS IT TO LAST MORE THAN ONE DAY.

9. BUDGET AND SECRETARIAT. MAC LEAN SAID P-G AGREED THAT BUDGET AND SECRETARIAT SHOULD BE KEPT SMALL AND AGREED WITH CANADIAN PROPOSAL TO POSTPONE MEETING OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE UNTIL AFTER JAN 26 MEETING (I.E. WEEK OF FEB 2). P-G SHARED MAC LEAN'S CONCERN OVER MEETING OF 27 PRIOR TO THIS TIME. MAC LEAN AND P-G AGREED TO GET TOGETHER WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS
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TO WORK OUT GUIDELINES WITHIN WHICH EXECUTIVE SECRETARY GUITTON SHOULD PREPARE A DRAFT BUDGET.
KATZ

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